

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-76. CANCELLED

77. (Currently Amended) A method of separating a template extending in a first plane from a substrate extending in a second plane ~~having an imprinting material disposed on a surface of said substrate~~, said method comprising:

applying a first force to form ~~forming~~ an oblique angle between said first plane and said second plane; and applying a second force differing from said first force to increase ~~increasing~~ a distance between said template and said substrate so that said template is spaced-apart from said substrate, with said first force and said second force being greater than zero.

78. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 77 wherein ~~said angle is achieved by applying a said first force to said template to cause~~ further includes causing said template to be tilted with respect to said substrate, ~~wherein with~~ said substrate ~~remains remaining~~ stationary.

79. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 77 wherein ~~said angle is achieved by applying a said first force to said template to cause~~ further includes causing said template to be tilted with respect to said substrate, ~~wherein with~~ said template ~~remains remaining~~ stationary.

80. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 77 wherein ~~said increasing said distance is achieved by applying a said second force to said template, wherein said force is applied~~ further includes applying said second force by a flexure system.

81. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 77 wherein ~~said increasing said distance is achieved by applying a said second force to said template, wherein~~ further includes applying said second force is applied by a piezo actuator, wherein with said piezo actuator contains containing a first end and a second end positioned opposite to each other, wherein said first end is being attached to said template and said second end is being in contact with said substrate, wherein with enlarging said piezo actuator causes causing said template to be pushed away from said substrate.

82. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 81 wherein applying said second force further includes having said second end ~~is~~ treated with a low surface energy layer.

83. (Currently Amended) A method of separating a template from a substrate, with a first distance and a second distance defined therebetween, ~~wherein with~~ said first distance ~~is~~ being defined opposite to said second distance, said method comprising:

applying a first force to increase increasing a first spacing between said substrate and said template so that a rate of change of said first distance is at a higher rate than a rate of change of said second distance; and

applying a second force differing from said first force to increase ~~increasing~~ a second spacing between said substrate and said template so that a rate of change of said first distance and said second distance are substantially uniform, with said first force and said second force being greater than zero.

84. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 83 wherein ~~said increasing said first distance is achieved by~~ applying a said first force to ~~said template to cause~~ further includes forming a wedge between said template and said substrate at one end of a template-substrate interface, wherein with said template is to be being tilted with respect to said substrate and said substrate remains remaining stationary.

85. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 83 wherein ~~said increasing said first distance is achieved by~~ applying a said first force to ~~said template to cause~~ further includes forming a wedge between said template and said substrate at one end of a template-substrate interface, wherein with said substrate is to be being tilted with respect to said template and said template remains remaining stationary.

86. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 83 wherein ~~said increasing said second distance is achieved by~~ applying a said second force to ~~said template to cause~~ further includes causing said template to be substantially separated from said substrate.

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87. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 83 wherein ~~said increasing said second distance is achieved by~~ applying a said second force to ~~said template, wherein said force is applied~~ further includes applying said second force by a flexure system.

88. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 83 wherein ~~said increasing said second distance is achieved by~~ applying a said second force to said template, wherein further includes applying said second force is applied by a piezo actuator, ~~wherein with~~ said piezo actuator ~~contains~~ containing a first end and a second end positioned opposite to each other, ~~wherein said first end is being attached to said template and said second end is being~~ in contact with said substrate, ~~wherein with~~ enlarging said piezo actuator ~~causes~~ causing said template to be pushed away from said substrate.

89. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 88 wherein applying said second force further includes having said second end ~~is~~ treated with a low surface energy layer.

90. (Currently Amended) A method of separating a template extending in a first plane from an imprinting layer extending in a second plane, said method comprising:
applying a first force to form ~~forming~~ an oblique angle between said first plane and said second plane to cause a wedge between said template and said imprinting layer at one end of a template-imprinting layer interface;
and

applying a second force differing from said first force to increase increasing a distance between said template and said imprinting layer so that said template is spaced-apart from said imprinting layer, with said first force and said second force being greater than zero.

91. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 90 wherein ~~said angle is achieved by~~ applying a said first force to said template to cause further includes causing said template to be tilted with respect to said substrate, ~~wherein~~ with said substrate ~~remains remaining~~ stationary.

92. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 90 wherein ~~said angle is achieved by~~ applying a said first force to said template to cause further includes causing said template to be tilted with respect to said substrate, ~~wherein~~ with said template ~~remains remaining~~ stationary.

93. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 90 wherein ~~said increasing said distance is achieved by~~ applying a said second force to said template, wherein said force is applied further includes applying said second force by a flexure system.

94. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 90 wherein ~~said increasing said distance is achieved by~~ applying a said second force to said template, wherein further includes applying said second force is applied by a piezo actuator, ~~wherein~~ with said piezo actuator ~~contains~~ containing a first end and a second end positioned opposite

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to each other, ~~wherein~~ said first end ~~is being~~ attached to said template and said second end ~~is being~~ in contact with said imprinting layer, ~~wherein~~ with enlarging said piezo actuator ~~causes~~ causing said template to be pushed away from said imprinting layer.

95. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 94 wherein applying said second force further includes having said second end ~~is~~ treated with a low surface energy layer.

96. (New) The method as recited in claim 77 further including applying said first and second forces concurrently.

97. (New) The method as recited in claim 83 further including applying said first and second forces concurrently.

98. (New) The method as recited in claim 90 further including applying said first and second forces concurrently.

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